

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 040323 TOSEC 040101

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APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

NEA:SSOBER

S/S - MR. MOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 040323 TOSEC 040101

EXDIS FROM NEA/SOBER THROUGH SISCO (S/S PASS HHSAUNDERS)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, XF, US, EG, IS

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: SINAI II AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE
(S/S 7603509)

1. THE FIRST SINAI II AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT IS SCHEDULED FOR FEB 22. THE PROBLEM POSED IN THIS MEMO SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY FEB 20 IF PLANS FOR INITIAL FLIGHT ARE TO PROCEED SMOOTHLY. YOU RESPONDED TO EARLIER MEMO ON THIS SUBJECT BY INDICATING YOU WISHED TO DISCUSS IT; THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO PRIOR TO YOUR DEPARTUHE AND DECISION IS NOW NECESSARY.

2. THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW ON THE PART OF THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE SCOPE OF OUR AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE SINAI II AGREEMENT. IN BRIEF, THE EGYPTIAN INTELLIGENCE PEOPLE APPEAR TO EXPECT, OR AT LEAST HOPE FOR, VITAL INFORMATION ON ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE AREAS OF SPECIAL MILITARY LIMITATIONS WHICH EGYPTIANS FEEL STRONGLY THEY NEED IN ORDER TO HAVE ADEQUATE EARLY WARNING CAPABILITY. THE ISRAELIS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 040323 TOSEC 040101

LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM

AND WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT ACCEPT THE EGYPTIAN IDEA OF EACH SIDE RECEIVING PHOTOGRAPHY COVERING ACTIVITIES OF THE

OTHER SIDE BEYOND THE AREA OF LIMITATIONS. THE ISRAELIS DEFINITELY DO NOT WANT PHOTOGRAPHY OF THEIR SIDE FROM THIS FLIGHT GIVEN TO THE EGYPTIANS.

3. IN DEALING WITH THE EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOR PHOTOGRAPHY BEYOND THE AREA OF LIMITATIONS WE HAVE FOUR ALTERNATIVES:

--TURN THE EGYPTIANS DOWN ON PHOTOGRAPHY BEYOND THE AREAS OF MILITARY LIMITATIONS, POINTING OUT THAT THE PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED TO COVER ONLY THOSE AREAS;

--PUT THE EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL TO THE ISRAELIS AND LET THEM TURN IT DOWN;

--AGREE TO PROVIDE THE PHOTOGRAPHY THE EGYPTIANS WANT WITHOUT TELLING THE ISRAELIS;

--TURN THE EGYPTIANS DOWN BUT INDICATE THAT WE WOULD NOT BE INDIFFERENT TO INDICATIONS FROM THIS OR ANY OTHER SOURCE OF THREATENING MILITARY MOVES.

4. TO TURN THE EGYPTIANS DOWN WITH NO ATTEMPT TO TAKE THEIR PROBLEM INTO ACCOUNT WOULD BE CORRECT, IN TERMS OF THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM, BUT IT WOULD BE DISAPPOINTING FOR THEM. THERE IS AN IMBALANCE IN THE CAPACITY OF THE TWO SIDES TO OBSERVE EACH OTHER, THE ISRAELIS HAVING A CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE GIVEN THE EXCELLENT LOCATION OF THEIR SURVEILLANCE STATION J-1. TO PUT TO THE ISRAELIS A PROPOSAL THAT GOES BEYOND THE PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM, ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY RESULT IN A NEGATIVE REPLY AND LEAVE THE ISRAELIS FEELING THAT WE WERE TRYING TO EXPAND, TO THEIR DISADVANTAGE, THE NATURE OF THE PROGRAM. TO SERVE THE EGYPTIANS CLANDESTINELY WOULD BE RISKY AND INCOMPATIBLE WITH OUR ROLE AS NEUTRAL INSPECTOR. THE FINAL OPTION WOULD SEEM TO BE THE BEST WE CAN DO AND STILL STICK TO OUR AGREED ROLE IN THIS SURVEILLANCE OPERATION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 040323 TOSEC 040101

5. RECOMMENDATION: THAT YOU APPROVE OUR REPLYING TO THE EGYPTIANS AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL THAT WE CANNOT PROVIDE PHOTOGRAPHY BEYOND THE LIMITED ARMAMENTS ZONE, BUT THAT WE WOULD NOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO INDICATIONS, FROM THIS OR ANY OTHER SOURCE, OF THREATENING MILITARY MOVES. WE WOULD MAKE THE SAME POINT TO THE ISRAELIS. APPROVE - - DISAPPROVE -

6. DRAFTED: NEA/IAI:WTCLUVERIUSIV APPROVED: JJSISCO
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